



Teen Belief Statements (12-18 years)

We believe:

- Education should be an active process of gaining and adapting new information involving many learners.
- We should support all teens in developing strong moral values that reflect empathy, respect, honesty, compassion, integrity, and trust – while keeping personal dignity intact.
- The curriculum should reflect lifelong learning by expanding the traditional subjects and making all learning relative.
- Teens learn best in a safe, nurturing, respectful environment that promotes independence and a positive sense of self-esteem.
- Teens should have the freedom to develop personal goals that encourage internal motivation and nurture inner harmony.
- Learning is a natural process that develops spontaneously in the learner.
- Teens should be encouraged to teach, collaborate with, and assist each other in their endeavors to attain and effectively use new and existing information.
- Teens should have the freedom to be themselves and develop individual identities within the community.
- Teens should be encouraged to question and look at situations from multiple viewpoints.
- The school community shares the love and respect of each learner and encourages each teen to develop his/her own uniqueness and individuality.
- Ownership, Empowerment (including Valorization), Accountability, and Respect are the four main components of the overall program.
- Listening, without judging, is crucial to the trust partnership with each teen.
- We all have a direct responsibility to our self, our family, our school, our community, our nation, and our world to question the foundation of our beliefs.
- Learning should take place in a non-competitive environment where learning is driven internally to better ourselves and each other.
- Learning is not about what is taught by the adult but how a learner takes new information, connects it to existing information, and changes a perception or expands an idea or concept.
- Teens are directly responsible for their own actions, and adults are expected to hold them accountable for their actions while maintaining dignity and respect.
- Understanding the developmental needs of teens (such as economic independence and a sense of social justice) is crucial to their overall support and learning.